

Kootenay Lake District Parents' Advisory Council Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2022

6:00-6:30 PM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Video Conferencing via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome

Called to Order: 6:06 PST

We acknowledge, respect, and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District #8.

Attendance:

Natalia Nazaroff - DPAC Chair/Vice Chair MSS/Elev8 DPAC Rep; Kendra Mann - Past DPAC Vice-Chair - now SD20 - attending to assist with elections if necessary; Michelle Sylvest - DPAC Treasurer/Hume DPAC Rep; Taryn Stokes - DPAC Secretary/CBESS & LVR parent; Lorien Quattrocchi - Hume PAC Chair; Colleen Bayly - DPAC Rep for Creston HL and Erickson Elem; Corinne Grubba - BK PAC Secretary/co-DPAC Rep; Eden Dupont - parent at LVR/MSSS; Michelle Harris - BK PAC Treasurer/Past Chair; Deana Postnikoff - MSSS PAC; Trish Smillie - Superintendent of School/CEO; Ben Eaton - Director of Instruction, Innovative Learning; Jann Schmidt - District Principal International Education; Lenora Trenamen - Trustee North/East Shores & Board Chair; Tyler Rice - Redfish Treasurer; Tamara Ziemer - LVR parent; Keely Winnitoy - Winlaw PAC Chair; iPhone; Randy Neen; Kevin; Steve Brockley; Vanessa - ARES PAC; Laura; Group 1 - Emily Duggan, Mason Rail, Joe Shaw, Al Shaw, Kyle Strong, Cali Spagis, Terry Daley (private citizen), Chad Williams, Mandy Kelly (from BK and MSSS); iPhone (3)

2. Establishment of Quorum

- 7 people officially represent school PACs and therefore the meeting has met quorum (as identified in the chat, as the duly elected DPAC rep for their PAC)

3. Approval of October 14th, 2021 AGM Minutes

- Taryn approve/Colleen seconded

4. Chair's Report

- Did share a lot of the report in June at the end of the year so many of us have heard it already but she has added to it. (see below)

- Lorien added that we need to acknowledge Natalia's efforts over the past year. Lorien is sorry that she could not have been more supportive but wants to say how great it has been to see Natalia grow into this position. Michelle also echoes the sentiments.

5. Treasurer's Report – presentation of Financial Statements, see screen shot

DPAC Financial Report FYE 2021-22

OPERATING STATEMENT

GENERAL ACCOUNT	
Opening Balance - October 1, 2021	9,459.53
Total Revenue	4,900.00
Total Expenses	1,785.00
Closing Balance	12,574.53

GAMING ACCOUNT	
Opening Balance - October 1, 2021	2046.03
Total Expenses	1,780.00
Total Revenue	2,000.00
Closing Balance	2,266.03

TOTAL CASH (30-Sep-2022) 14,840.56

EXPENSES	General	Gaming
Bank Fees	30.00	30.00
Family Education		1600.00
BCCPAC AGM/Conference	105.00	
BCCPAC fees	1,650.00	150.00
	1,785.00	1,780.00

October 1, 2021, to September 30, 2022

6. Call for Nominations

Lorien Quattrocchi nominates Michelle Sylvest to the DPAC treasurer position

Call 3 times for nominations, Michelle accepted nomination

Natalia Nazaroff nominates Tamara Ziemer for the vice chair role

Call 3 times for nominations, Tamara accepted the nomination

Lorien Quattrocchi motions to elect Natalia Nazaroff to DPAC Chair

Call 3 times for nominations, Natalia accepted nomination

Michelle Sylvest nominates Taryn Stokes to DPAC secretary position

Call 3 times for nominations, Taryn accepted nomination

7. Election of Executive Officers, all acclaimed

a. Chair: Natalia Nazaroff

b. Vice Chair: Tamara Ziemer

c. Secretary: Taryn Stokes

d. Treasurer: Michelle Sylvest

8. Signing Officers - PROPOSED MOTION by Natalia Nazaroff: The signing officers shall be Natalia Nazaroff, Michelle Sylvest and Tamara Ziemer; and these shall be the only signing officers for

the Kootenay Lake DPAC. All other previous signing officers will be removed. (Lorien removed and another name)

Seconded: Michelle Sylvest

Opposed: Nil

Moved and approved

9. Review of Parent Representatives to District Committees of the Whole

a. Governance & Policy

Eden Dupont

Natalia Nazaroff

b. Education

Tamara Ziemer

Taryn Stokes

c. Operations & Finance:

Colleen Bayly

Tyler Rice

10. Adjournment 6:43 pm PST, next AGM next October

DPAC Chair Report Prepared for October 20, 2022

First off I would like to acknowledge, respect, and honour the First Nations in whose traditional territories the Kootenay Lake School District operates and all Aboriginal people residing within the boundaries of School District #8. I am honoured to have been born and raised on these magnificent lands, to share in their bounty and beauty and raise my children here.

I would like to start my report by acknowledging the wonderful DPAC leadership team that I had to work with this past year. I can only try to begin to explain how much the DPAC executive has done to support each other and to make the year a success.

I would like you all to know how much Kendra Mann (co-vice chair) has done to help me when the times got tough. Kendra has been with our district for so many, many years and has such a wealth of knowledge and I am sad to say that she has moved on to a new district this fall.

Kendra you will truly be missed! Whenever I needed a sounding board or just couldn't manage to do something on my own, whether it was due to an injury, just pure exhaustion, or inexperience, Kendra never hesitated to step in and lend a hand. Many weeks we were emailing and sending messages back and forth every day multiple times a day trying to get things figured out and we always managed to get the job done together. Kendra has taken on every role that was ever thrown her way and I am sure that our long standing friendship, that started before either of us ever had children will continue, and I will still be messaging Kendra for her expertise in the future. I have no doubt she will remain a valuable asset to us all.

Next I would like to thank Kristi Wray for stepping into the role of co-vice chair. Kristi was relatively new to DPAC but she was always eager to learn and to volunteer for attending meetings. Kristi has a very full life and we appreciate all that she has done for us. Kristi was also a representative on the Education Committee and the Finance Committee.

Michelle Sylvest has been our treasurer for a number of years now and she is always prompt in returning emails and offering to help navigate tricky situations. Michelle has been an amazing asset when it comes to getting the wording just right to get our DPACs message across. In the spring of 2021 we had the privilege of submitting 2 questions for the Superintendent hire and Michelle worked tirelessly to get the wording perfect with all our suggestions and edits. Michelle is a valuable asset to our DPAC and I value all that she contributes. Our books look good! Thank you Michelle.

Taryn Stokes has been a DPAC rep for Crawford Bay for a number of years. This last year she took on a different role at DPAC and joined the executive to be our secretary. Taryn has always had the minutes ready for proof reading well in advance of our next meeting, I never once had to ask for the minutes and they have always been presented very efficiently. Taryn has also been a representative on the Education Committee for a number of years and always brings back great reports to DPAC that show us what is happening in our District. Taryn has attended almost every parent education event that we were invited to or put on this past year. She has been an extremely valuable executive member and is becoming a wealth of knowledge. Taryn brings valuable expertise to our table and is always a joy to work with.

I would like to thank our past chair Lorien Quatrocchi for helping out with any issues that arose and joining in on our executive email threads adding in her voice of experience. Lorien has had a very full life and we are grateful for the time she was able to spend with DPAC.

Eden Dupont has been a member of the Policy and Governance Committee for a number of years and she has been a great asset to our DPAC. Eden has a deep understanding of the parent view and the importance of the parent voice when it comes to education. I have had the pleasure of sitting on this committee with Eden who has a great understanding of the policies and issues. We have worked well together as a team on this committee representing DPAC.

Last year Colleen Bayly took on the role of sitting on the Finance Committee. She took this responsibility very seriously and enthusiastically. She was always an active participant in the meetings and had a real understanding of the issues facing our district and how they affect families. Colleen was very conscientious making sure the needs of students and families were being met on both sides of the mountain. Colleen's reports back to DPAC have been extensive and very informative. Thank you Colleen!

Last fall we started the school year having to navigate a second school year with the constant

unknowns due to Covid. In many ways the last school year was more challenging than the previous one as regulations and rules were changing weekly and we were all sitting on edge waiting to hear what was coming next. I admire the steady, calm voice that we received from our new Superintendent Smilie in these uncertain times.

We started off our parent education in October with an Advocacy seminar series presented by Susan Wilson. We had an unprecedented amount of parents sign up for these seminars and attend the Advocacy 101 and Advocate training seminars. We were able to offer both of these over zoom and had parents from across the district attend and sign up to be advocates for parents facing challenges in our school system.

We had our DPAC executive attend the BCCPAC leadership summit over zoom in November. This is a 2 day seminar that is packed with information and I always find it inspiring.

In January we had the opportunity to send a DPAC representative to sit on a brand new anti-racism council to help write a new district policy on anti-racism. Thank you Marya Folinsbee for being our representative on this council.

Last spring we had a parent education night with a presentation on the District's new Anti-Racism toolkit presented by Gail Higginbottom and Jann Schmidt. It was a well attended evening that was very emotional and informative. We have had many requests to run it a second time.

Late in the spring Scott Rothermel presented a Digital Media Safety series for our families. These 4 presentations are always very well attended and parents are always grateful for the information that Scott presents. We can never be too careful with our children and Digital Media.

In April we had Cathy McMillian of Dyslexia BC together with the Dyslexia Institute do a 2 day presentation on Dyslexia. DPAC decided to open up both of these presentations to all families, staff and trustees in our district for free. We also opened up these presentations to everyone in our province for a \$5 fee. We had close to 100 people register for the simulation and the information was invaluable in helping us better understand this common yet commonly misunderstood diagnosis.

In May the DPAC executive and the PAC chairs had an opportunity to attend the BCCPAC AGM and conference. It was going to be in person but at the last minute it became an online event. They had great presenters and as always a very inspiring information filled 2 days.

This fall the District has provided us with a lineup of Online Parent Education Sessions. These have been well attended and a great resource for our parents. We are very lucky to have a district that is eager to share knowledge and provide parents with this kind of resource with an

opportunity to ask questions and learn. There are links available on our DPAC website and on the District website to this schedule and to the sessions themselves.

As well this October we have just gone through municipal elections and we have a number of new Trustees joining the Board. I would like to welcome back Trustee Treneman, Trustee Nazaroff, Trustee Chew, Trustee Lang, and Trustee Gribbin. I would also like to welcome our newly elected Trustees, Trustee Bremner, Trustee Shunter, Trustee Ethridge, and Trustee Blackmore. The Kootenay Lake DPAC is sending all Trustees an open invitation to attend all of our DPAC meetings.

I would like to take a moment now to thank Superintendent Trish Smillie for always being there to discuss DPAC issues and to support us. I have been very grateful for all her support and her willingness to listen to any concerns that DPAC has had. I have always felt that DPAC was treated like a valued partner group and that our concerns were always heard. Thank you Superintendent Smillie for your strong leadership!

Finally I would like to thank the Trustees for coming to our meetings and helping answer the tough questions that parents brought forward. I would especially like to thank Chair Lenora Trenamen for all her support. We had a number of phone calls and emails that took time from her busy schedule and she never made me feel like it was an imposition. Lenora always responds to my inquiries in a timely and professional way that is human and doesn't leave me wondering what was just said. As a parent it is always nice to feel heard and understood even when you know that you are looking at things from a different perspective. We had 2 other Trustees that came regularly and contributed greatly to our DPAC meetings. I would like to acknowledge and thank Vice Chair Trustee Sharon Nazaroff and Trustee Sheri Walsh for their time and dedication to DPAC. Thank you!

In closing I would like to say even though it was a challenging year, I think it was a good year. We had incredible parent and PAC involvement at our DPAC meetings and we were able to offer a fair number of parent education opportunities. Looking at the attendance numbers they were topics that parents wanted to learn more about and felt were valuable.

I am extremely grateful for having the opportunity to have been the Chair of DPAC this past year as I have learned so much and am truly humbled by this experience.

I bow to you in my traditional custom and express my gratitude in my first language.

Spa-see Hohs-padee! Спаси Господи! Thank-you!

Natalia Nazaroff
DPAC Chair